

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments, the applicants have canceled claims 23-26 without prejudice. Claims 1-22, which correspond to Invention I, remain pending in this application. Additionally, the applicants elect species I and claims 1-9, which read thereon.

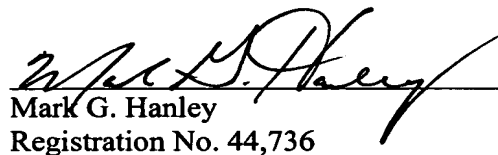
The applicants also respectfully submit that it would not be a serious burden for the examiner to examine claims 10-22, which correspond to species II, together with claims 1-9 in this application. In particular, as pointed out by the examiner, claims 1-9 and 10-22 are classified in the same class and subclass and, thus, additional search effort is likely not required to examine claims 10-22 together with claims 1-9.

An early favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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